

Robert T. Matsui

Congressman
Fifth District, California



NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
DECEMBER 19, 2001**

**CONTACT: JIM BONHAM
202-225-7163**

Matsui Announces Funding for Local Job Training Program

Washington, DC- Representative Robert Matsui (D-Sacramento) today announced that \$800,000 for the Sacramento Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Job Training Program was included in the final FY02 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act passed by the House of Representatives today. The legislation is expected to be passed by the Senate and signed into law shortly.

"This is a great program and I couldn't be more pleased that we were able to secure more funding," Matsui said. "Job training is important in a good economy, but even more so in economic downturns. These programs reduce the unemployment rate, provide new housing, and in the process, truly change the lives of everyone involved."

The Sacramento Pre-Apprenticeship Program targets under-utilized and at-risk youth for a structured construction job-training program. Many of these young adults are high school dropouts and have had contact with the juvenile justice system. Students receive on site construction training, participate in GED classes, have access to job training services and counseling, and receive small stipends. Over 90 percent of the program's 225 graduates have gone on to regular employment.

Since the program's inception in 1994, students have constructed 32 affordable homes. The FY02 earmark included in the legislation passed today will allow for an additional 12 homes to be built in the Sacramento area, involving 160 trainees in the process.

###